



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

researches has led him to delve particularly deep in this field: the Domestic Calendar for the period is so poor and meagre as to be virtually negligible—the Foreign and Venetian ones are little better, and the Spanish does not cover the reign at all. Dasent's *Acts of the Privy Council* are of course valuable, but they are nothing in comparison with the enormous mass of material which has been made accessible, chiefly through Dr. Gairdner's own efforts, in the *Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII*. In attacking the period of Edward VI. he has lost the vantage-ground which he has hitherto possessed: he relies, in the present volume, for the most part on printed material which has been long accessible; and the novelty of his work lies rather in the judgments it pronounces than in the facts it contains. The element which has constituted the chief value of his earlier writings is almost absent; but he has given freer play than usual to his individual opinion, which, to say the least, is not always to be trusted.

It seems graceless to write thus disparagingly of the work of a veteran scholar now in his eighty-fourth year, who has spent the better part of his life in rendering the material for the history of the first half of the sixteenth century in England more accessible than that of any other period of her long and glorious annals—particularly so, when it is obvious, at every line, that the author regards the present book as the culmination of his labors. We have done so because the very fact that his name is on the title-page is bound to give the book great importance, and because its bias is so obvious that it challenges controversy in a way which it is impossible to ignore. Future volumes will be awaited with mingled eagerness and apprehension.

ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.

*Histoire de Belgique*. Par H. PIRENNE, Professeur à l'Université de Gand. Volume IV. *La Révolution Politique et Religieuse, le Règne d'Albert et d'Isabelle, le Régime Espagnol jusqu'à la Paix de Munster (1648)*. (Brussels: Henri Lamertin. 1911. Pp. vii, 495.)

IN the course of M. Pirenne's account of the Eighty Years' War as told in this fourth volume of his *History of Belgium* occurs the first definite parting of the ways between the two groups of Netherland provinces. The fortunes of the Dutch republic are left to Professor Blok in his *Geschiedenis van het Nederlandsche Volk*, and from 1579 the pages of Pirenne are devoted exclusively to Belgium in her institutional, economic, social, and political individuality. The epoch between Alva's arrival and the formation of the unions of Arras and Utrecht has been worked over in every detail. M. Pirenne points out that in the early half of this volume, devoted to 1572–1579, he was embarrassed by the richness, in the latter, by the poverty, of his material. For the first part he has used the investigations of others and the narrative, clear and

colorless, is not illumined by new light in its rather meagre phrases. In treating the events that led to the rise of the United Provinces M. Pirenne, naturally, is not animated by an enthusiasm familiar to American and English readers. At the same time he is singularly free from the spirit displayed by certain Belgian writers, notably by Baron Kervyn de Lettenhove. In the dead level of Pirenne's neutral statements, occasional personal touches come as a grateful relief, as in the following characterization of Alexander Farnese: "There is a certain affinity between his character and that of the Prince of Orange in spite of the differences of temperament, of education, and of religious faith. In both is found the same clear-cut will, the same obstinacy allied to the same suppleness. With less natural ease and bonhomie but with more grace and distinction Parma exercised like Orange a charm on all about him and like him won sympathy." The *Apologie* is rated as "le plus beau peut-être, et à coup sur, le plus prenant, en même temps que le plus habile des pamphlets du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle". Such a cordial appreciation of the prince is a marked contrast to the terms of opprobrium heaped upon him by Baron Kervyn.

After entering on a consideration of the archdukes in their government of the Spanish provinces—the later Belgium—M. Pirenne grows warmer to his theme. His narrative almost breaks ground in its freshness. The reader becomes impressed by the real contribution to the *proportion* of Netherland history by this biography of Belgium.

The sketch of the gradual reduction of Albert and Isabella's promised independent administration to a colonial dependency of Spain is well done, as is also the treatment of the social and industrial life, but perhaps the most valuable chapter of the political story is that devoted to Liège. Pirenne makes clear the various inconsistencies in the part played by that little episcopal state in the revolt. The peculiar relations to the external authority of Church and State are brought out excellently well.

All authorities do not concur with M. Pirenne in his conclusion that racial and linguistic elements went for nothing in the ultimate separation of the Dutch and Belgian states. Religion was the sole cause to his mind. "Ce n'est point une lutte de race, c'est une lutte confessionnelle", he states with precision. The superficial observer is inclined to doubt this dictum, so easy is it to see and feel a fundamental diversity between the peoples, to note an incompatibility of temper quite sufficient to account for failure to be content in a close union.

The concluding volume will be even more interesting than this. M. Pirenne is to be congratulated that he has a new field and the public that it has this fair-minded, industrious Belgian scholar to do this much needed work of filling out gaps and of rounding out the story of his own national history.

RUTH PUTNAM.